

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 JULY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces accompanied by "Muslim Iraqi mujahedin" from the Badr Brigade launched a new offensive in the northern sector of the Al-Hawzah marshes 24 July, advancing 8 km along an 18 km front and capturing 13 Iraqi garrisons, Iran announced in a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. The Iranians routed an attempted counterattack by Iraq's Fourth Army Corps, according to IRNA. However, an Iraqi military source cited by INA called the Iranian claims "lies," contending that fighting was still raging in the area Iran claimed to have occupied, and that Iraqi forces were killing "scores" of enemy soldiers. Iraq remains in full control of the marshes and surrounding area, an Iraqi spokesman subsequently told INA.

In another development, INA reported that Iraqi troops launched a "crushing offensive" against Iranian positions on Iraq's northeastern borders early 25 July. IRNA claimed that Iranian forces killed or wounded 250 Iraqi soldiers during five enemy counteroffensives in the Sumar region of Bakhtaran.

Iran

Saudi officials are again creating problems for Iranian pilgrims despite the recent "positive promise" given by the Saudi foreign minister concerning Iran's "need" to send some 150,000 pilgrims on the hajj, Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad Khatami stated in a Tehran radio interview. Noting that the Saudis have now "made an excuse that no more than 100,000 can come to hajj," he expressed hope that this is a result of "mistakes and misinterpretation" by low-level Saudi officials, and urged higher-ranking officials to immediately clear up the problems and prevent further misunderstanding. In a related development, Iran's deputy foreign minister told the Saudi charge d'affaires in Tehran that "either 150,000 Iranian Muslims will attend the ceremonies or none will attend," according to the radio.

Jordan

The Islamic Jihad organization claimed responsibility for the killing of a Jordanian diplomat in Ankara, AFP reported. An

anonymous phone caller to a news agency in Ankara said the Jordanian Embassy's first secretary was "a victim of the forces of imperialism" and Islamic Jihad would "pursue its actions against such people." However, the attack was also claimed by the Palestinian group Black September in an anonymous phone call to a Western news agency in Amman, the agency reported.

PLAID OFFERS

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf denied that two names mentioned in Israeli reports were on a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation list recently submitted for U.S. consideration, AFP reported. The two, Hanna Sanyarah and Fawzi Abu Rahmah, were proposed by the PLO as advisers and not full members, he said.

Lebanon

Representatives of the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), the Sidon Political Council, the Amal movement, and the Lebanese National Democratic Front met in Syria, Damascus radio reported, noting that they reached agreement on measures to improve the political and security situation of Lebanese and PNSF forces and confront hostile plans to upset the security situation in Sidon.

In another development, Beirut radio reported that the coordination committee supervising implementation of security measures in the capital decided to ban all gunmen at Beirut Airport except soldiers and officers on duty.

Saudi Arabia

The government reportedly wants to buy 400 "Cuirassier" tanks from an Austrian firm, according to the Austrian paper *KURIER*. Recently, Deputy Prime Minister Crown Prince 'Abdallah visited Austria and inspected arms industry products.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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Discontented Pakistani Armed Forces 'Powder Keg'
 LD250526 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 27 Jul 85

[Text] Kabul, July 26, BAKHTAR — The trial of fourteen military officers of Pakistan and three others accused of conspiracy against the military regime of General Zia reminds one of a similar trial which took place against Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1973.

The discontent of the people of Pakistan and the armed forces of that country is the aftermath of the oppressive attempts of the regime against the people, in particular, his force elections of 1984.

The patriotic sentiments of the people of Pakistan reflected in the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) have harassed the ruling circles of that country.

Concerning the dissatisfaction created in Pakistani Army *LONDON TIMES* writes: "The officers on trial maintain that the Nawab Kot incident was part of an elaborate operation devised and executed by the chief of ISI (Interservices Intelligence), General Akhtar Rahman, to frame dissident officers and purge the military of critics of Zia's regime. In the crackdown that followed, 250 military officers were detained. Finally, only 25 of the hundreds arrested were put on trial, though 20 are still said to be detained. But when the trial began in January the prosecution denied this ever took place. According to an informed source, the summary was too explosive, revealing much greater discontent in the armed forces than the authorities could risk exposing."

Discontent in the armed forces of Pakistan has changed that country into a powder keg and weapons, as well as the main centre of the undeclared war against Afghanistan. It is an established fact that a power keg and weapons depot are more sensitive against fire and they will eventually burn the hands of those who have created this powder keg for attaining aggressive targets.

BAKHTAR Commentary on U.S. Backed Terrorism
 LD250526 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 27 Jul 85

[BAKHTAR political observer commentary]

[Text] Kabul, July 26, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

Ronald Reagan has dramatically reacted to create a "special advisory group" to allegedly struggle against terrorism.

The crux of the matter is that the U.S. Administration has never overlooked the people of the world more than this for its claim that it fights against terrorism. Today, the peoples of the world know it well that the framers and executors of the U.S. terrorism is Reagan administration. Now, the administration has set up such a "special advisory group" in order to engage more freely in terrorist and phenderson activities. Ronald Reagan calls these countries the source of terrorism which fight against the domination of U.S. imperialism including Cuba and Nicaragua.

Facts indicate that the United States is the nucleus of terrorist training in the world. Over 25 terrorist centres exist only in the United States. Professional murderers, terrorists and saboteurs are being given training in the special camps established there for this purpose. The United States not only has established the terrorist centres in its own territory but also in the territories of countries such as Pakistan, Honduras, South Africa, Thailand, Israel, Guatemala and other countries. Such a terrorist camp exists in the territory of Pakistan which General Ziaul Haq has put at the disposal of CIA.

Right now, over 120 terrorist camps exist in Pakistan where Afghan counter-revolutionary murderers are being trained by American and Pakistani instructors.

The United States spends over one billion dollars on arming and training of the Afghan counter-revolutionary elements.

Gandhi Says Pakistan's Nuclear Threat Is No Vice
 BK250910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1830 ZUL 85
 25 Jul 85

[Text] The prime minister has said that India is preparing to meet the nuclear threat from Pakistan. Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that during his recent visit to the United States it was brought to the notice of the U. S. leaders that Pakistan is getting nuclear technology clandestinely from America and some other Western countries. He said United States assured India that it would take action to stop the smuggling of nuclear technology.

Mr Gandhi said that the Chinese-American understanding on the supply of nuclear technology to China had been going on for some time. He said India is aware of it, but we do not have any precise details. The prime minister brought to the notice of the American leaders that balance of power will be disturbed by the U.S. supply of sophisticated arms to Pakistan. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said it was made clear that we have to divert our scarce resources to counter these weapons. He said India is strong enough to stand on its own feet, and we should not fear these threats.

Earlier, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, told the members that India has its options open to face the nuclear threat from Pakistan. If Pakistan felt that it was 25 years ahead of India in the technology relating to enrichment of uranium, it is welcome to have these illusions, he added. In reply to another question, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan assured the house that the government will continue to use its good offices to resolve the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

The prime minister made it clear that the government has no intention to amend the constitution to facilitate imposition of emergency for internal disturbances. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was giving clarifications in the Rajya Sabha on his reference to the emergency at a press conference in the first week of this month. He however maintained that the imposition of emergency in 1975 was justified under the then prevailing circumstances.

Reportage, Comment on Punjab Memorandum

Memorandum Signed

BK241342 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
 1330 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] A memorandum of settlement of Punjab was signed in New Delhi a short while ago by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Akali Dal president, Mr Longowal. This was announced by the prime minister in the Lok Sabha amidst prolonged cheers.

The settlement provides that the capital project area of Chandigarh will go to Punjab. The areas which were added to the union territory from the Punjabi [speaking] region of the erstwhile state of Punjab will be transferred to Punjab, and those from Hindi region to Haryana. The entire Sukhna Lake will go to Punjab. A commission will be constituted to determine the Hindi speaking areas of Punjab which will go to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh.

India-Pakistan Peace Process

BK250910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1830 ZUL 85
 25 Jul 85

[Text] A settlement has been reached between the central government and the Akali Dal on the long-standing problems in Punjab. The memorandum of settlement was signed by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Akali Dal president, Mr Harbans Singh Longowal, in New Delhi this afternoon following another round of talks. Since then, the prime minister applied operations together about the settlement and then announced it to the incoming parliament.

The settlement provides that the capital project area of Chandigarh will go to Punjab. The areas which were added to the union territory from the Punjabi region of the erstwhile state of Punjab will be transferred to Punjab and those from Hindi region to Haryana. The entire Sukhna Lake will be kept as part of Chandigarh and will go to Punjab. A commission will determine the Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab which will go to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh. The commission will give its findings by the end of this year and there will be trading on both sides. The actual transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and areas in lieu thereof to Haryana will take place simultaneously on Republic Day next year. A separate commission will consider other claims and counterclaims for readjustment of the existing Punjab-Haryana boundary. Its findings will also be binding on the states concerned. The settlement says that the Anandpur Sahib Resolution in so far as it deals with the center-state relations will be referred to the Sarkaria Commission.

About sharing of river waters, the settlement lays down that the farmers of Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan will continue to get water which will not be less than what they were using from the Ravi-Beas system as on the 1st of this month. A tribunal will verify the claims of the quantum of water used. The tribunal, which will be presided over by a Supreme Court judge, will also adjudicate on the claims of Punjab and Haryana regarding the shares in the remaining waters. The tribunal's decision will be available within 6 months and will be binding on both the parties. The construction of Khel Canal at Sutlej-Yamuna link will continue and will be completed by independence day next year.

The settlement provides that along with ex gratia payment to the innocent people killed in agitation or any action after 1 August 1982, compensation will also be paid for property damage. The jurisdiction of the Mishra commission enquiring into the November riots in Delhi will be extended to cover the disturbances at Bokaro and Kanpur.

Under the settlement the government has agreed to consider formulation of an all India Gurdwara [Sikh temples] bill which will be brought forward [in parliament] for this purpose in consultation with the Akali Dal and others concerned and after fulfilling all constitutional requirements.

The notification applying the Armed Forces Special Powers Act to Punjab will be withdrawn. The existing special courts will try only cases involving the offenses of waging war and hijacking. All other cases will be transferred to ordinary courts.

The 11-point settlement reaffirms that all citizens of the country have the right to enroll in the Army and merit will remain the criterion for selection. It also provides that for all those discharged from the Army, efforts will be made to rehabilitate them and provide them gainful employment. Existing instructions regarding protection of the interests of minorities will be circulated again to chief ministers. The prime minister will write to them.

The signatories to the settlement note that it brings to an end a period of confrontation and ushers in an era of unity, goodwill and cooperation which will promote and strengthen India's unity and integrity.

Announcing the settlement in the Lok Sabha a few minutes after 1800 [1230 GMT], Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed the hope that it will bring to an end a very difficult period that the country had been passing through. He said his party had committed itself to give the utmost priority to solving the problem in Punjab. The government had taken a very concrete step today and he hoped that the settlement would usher in a new phase of cooperation. The prime minister's announcement was greeted with prolonged applause in both the houses. In the Lok Sabha, the Janata leader, Mr Madhu Dandavate, expressed total agreement with the memorandum signed between the government and the Akali Dal. He said the settlement will open a new chapter of unity and integrity of India with Hind-Sikh amity. Speaking on behalf of the entire house, the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, congratulated Mr Rajiv Gandhi for a success in arriving at the settlement.

The memorandum of settlement followed several hours of hectic consultations for the second day today. It was signed at 1745 [1215 GMT]. Akali leaders, Mr Balwant Singh and Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, and members of the political affairs committee were present at the time of signing. Immediately after the signing the prime minister met some opposition leaders to apprise them of the settlement. The leaders included Mr Dipen Ghosh, Mrs. Geeta Mukherjee, Mr L.K. Advani, Mr Madhava Reddy, Mr Gurpudha Swamy, Mr Virendra Verma, Mr Madhu Dandavate, Mr S.W. Dhabre, and Mr Vasudev Acharya. Shortly thereafter the prime minister made the announcement first in the Lok Sabha and then in the Rajya Sabha.

Talking to newsmen after signing the agreement in the second round of talks in New Delhi, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal said that the talks were entirely satisfactory. Mr Balwant Singh, who was accompanying Sant Longowal, said we are fully satisfied with the agreement reached. The period of confrontation is over, he said.

Leaders Welcome Accord

**BK241625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
24 Jul 85**

[Text] The Akali Dal has welcomed the agreement reached between the prime minister and Mr Longowal on Punjab. In a statement in New Delhi today, its general secretary, Mr Onkar Singh Thapar, said that a long conflict is now over and appealed to the people to maintain traditional goodwill and communal harmony.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhagwan Lal, and the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee, Mr Dattam Singh, have praised the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for showing political sagacity and acceptance in reaching the Punjab problem. In a joint statement in New Delhi today, they thanked him for fully protecting the interests of Haryana state and promoting a new trend for the rephormatization of the country.

The agreement on Punjab has been widely welcomed by other leaders also. Its acceptance by the media network, the Punjab government, Mr Arjun Singh, topped the endorsement and welcome now shown by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and Sant Harchand Singh Longowal will bring to an end the agony of Punjab and unity of the country. The Congress-I general secretary, Mrs Rajendra Kishore Bajpai, said that the agreement will usher in peace in the state and pave the way for assembly elections in Punjab. The members of the Punjab Congress-I members of parliament and Rajya Sabha member, Mr Manojpal, said Sant Harchand Singh Longowal took a bold step to visit Delhi and sign the agreement. In a statement issued in New Delhi, the West Bengal Congress-I committee has congratulated the prime minister for solving the Punjab problem.

Congratulating the prime minister, the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Mr G. M. Shah, hoped that the Punjab accord will bring back the much needed normalcy and peace in the neighboring state of Punjab. The president of the Janawadi Party, Mr Chandrajit Yadav, has described Punjab settlement as victory for democratic traditions over the forces of terrorism.

Hailing the Punjab accord, the Assam chief minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, said that this has once again proved the bold and able leadership of the prime minister.

A Telugu Desam MP, Mr Ayappa Reddy, has called the agreement as the beginning of a new chapter in ushering peace. More reports welcoming the accord are pouring in.

Further Details

**BK250531 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
25 Jul 85**

[Text] The Gujarat chief minister, Mr Amarsinh Chaudhari, the Karnataka chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, and the Orissa chief minister, Mr Patnaik, welcoming the accord [on the Punjab issue], expressed the hope that it will promote amity, understanding and fraternity between Sikhs and Hindus. The former Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, called upon all secular forces to rise to the occasion and strengthen secularism.

The Andhra Pradesh governor, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, while welcoming it, said he looks forward to a new era of amity and friendship among all sections of the people and the prosperity of the state. The former Punjab minister, Mr Umrao Singh, and Mr Hanspal, MP, said in New Delhi that a new chapter has begun in the history of the state which had witnessed the destruction and violence during the past 4 years. All senior Akali Dal leaders described the agreement as a historic achievement. They are Mr Sukhdev Singh Bhimsa, Mr Gurnam Singh Pir, Mr Dhuri, and Giani Arjun Singh.

The Telugu Desam leader in the Rajya Sabha, Mr P. Jaganmouli, said the prime minister has displayed statesmanship and sagacity in solving the problem. Prominent Sikh leaders in the capital have warmly lauded the package deal accepted by the Akali leadership.

The secretary of the Sri Gurugovind Sabha in Bombay, Mr Trilok Singh Burgi, said every citizen should be happy over the agreement. The Delhi Sikh Pratinidhi (Representative) Board has also welcomed it. The national secretariat of the CPI, in a statement issued in New Delhi, said the agreement would find general acceptance among all sections of Punjab's people and pave the way for speedy normalcy in the state.

Over 50 members of parliament from different parts of the country, in a joint statement, said this will put an end to the era of confrontation and uncertainty.

Longowal Calls For 'Urgent' Meeting

BK250331 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
25 Jul 85

[Text] The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has called for an urgent meeting of his party leaders in Anandpur Sahib tomorrow.

The presidents of district units, state presidents of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Punjab, party members of parliament and MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly] and other prominent leaders have been invited for the meeting. Sant Longowal will be apprising them of the accord reached with the center on the Punjab problem.

Heavily contingentated throughout Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi have been registered as a prearrangement measure to observe any possible outbreak of violence to ensure the atmosphere of good will created by the signing of the accord. Watchfulities have been issued regarding the action which had threatened Chandigarh and Punjab as disturbed areas under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act.

Further Details

BB250442 Hong Kong AFP in English 0406 0307 27 Jul 85

[Text] New Delhi, July (AFP) — Moderate Sikh leaders are to meet in the Punjab tomorrow to discuss the agreement signed with the Indian Government yesterday ending the four-year-old Sikh autonomy campaign, the Akali Dal chief said. The meeting, called by Akali Dal leader Harchand Singh Longowal, who initiated the agreement, was expected to ratify the accord, Sikh sources said. The meeting will be held in Anandpur Sahib from where the first call for the state's autonomy was issued more than a decade ago. Mr Longowal told journalists late last night that party chiefs from five Indian provinces, districts unit chiefs, and Sikh deputies belonging to the Akali Dal would attend the meeting. The campaign is expected to be formally called off after tomorrow's meeting, party sources said.

Yesterday's agreement has been widely welcomed by moderate Sikh and opposition leaders, but no reaction was forthcoming from the militant section of the party. The militants headed by Joginder Singh, father of the late firebrand Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale attempted to seize power in the Akali Dal Earlier this year. Analysts said Mr Longowal had managed to keep his hold in the party.

NEPAL

Foreign Minister Views Indian, Chinese Plan

HK191177 Delhi FMS HINDU/STAFF TIMES in English
19 Jul 85 p 1, 19

[From Arabinda Ghose]

[Text] Katmandu, July 17 — Nepalese Foreign Minister Bishnu Subba said here today that India should change the perception of her security. It was this perception which made India look at the countries in the region south of the Himalayas in a particular manner, he told the correspondents at his residence near the Pashupatinath Temple.

Mr Subba, who has recently taken charge of the foreign portfolio along with that of education, was candid enough to admit that "our perception and India's perception on security are different." These differences, he said, would continue for some time till things settled down. And these differences, he said, gave rise to irritants between the two countries.

Expounding on this aspect of Indo-Nepalese relations, the minister said that the "Himalayas are a big barrier during peace time". In a situation of modern war, of course, this did not hold good. But, then he added, no one would like to traverse territories on both sides of the Nepal-Chinese (Tibet) border where one did not come across a single human being for days altogether and where one had to carry one's own food and camping gear.

Answering questions on Indo-Nepalese relations, Mr Subba said, Nepal realised that she was situated south of the Himalayas and the geographic compulsions associated with this fact. "We cannot side with any country against India," he added. However, the soft-spoken foreign minister, who is nearing 80, said if China were to march through Nepal for attacking India "we would resist to the extent we can". Similarly, if India were to make Nepal the base for attack on China, Nepal would offer resistance to the extent possible. Let Nepal, he suggested, be the meeting ground between China and India. Nepal, he emphasised, was not a buffer state between the two giants and quoted King Birendra as telling an American news magazine in 1973 that Nepal was not really part of the subcontinent. She belonged to "that part of Asia which touched both China and India."

The Foreign Minister, nevertheless, emphasised that Nepal could not become too close to either of her neighbours. "We know that we can get close to China only to a certain extent, beyond which India will take note of the fact." In the same manner, he added, if Nepal were to get too close to India, China too would "take note" of that. Thus, Mr Subba said, non-alignment for Nepal really meant not being aligned with either India or China unlike in case of other countries, for which non-alignment meant not getting involved with either of the two super powers.

Warming up on the question of Indo-Nepalese Treaties of Trade and Transit, Mr Subba said that Nepal did realise that her prosperity depended upon India's goodwill because this country's overseas trade had to pass through Indian territory. Carrying on international trade through Shanghai and Canton ports would be

extremely costly, he added. But there is something more than prosperity. There is dignity and self-respect. Nepal must uphold the dignity and self-respect even at the cost of the prosperity, he said. "This was a clear illustration in the relations in the aftermath of Indo-Pakistan 1965 war and 1971 war and the foreign minister, after his winning match, said that there was nothing more 'respected'." If someone were to march from the desert when used go through these regions, he suggested, he would find there was in the eyes of governments that the boundaries, the strength, had faded in the final challenge.

"Take the case of the import of narcotics from Nepal sometimes ago. The Cabinet had passed a commitment of narcotics from Nepal on the ground that it originated in India. When the local correspondents made some noise on this issue, he took up the matter and was told that no narcotics commission would determine where the narcotics originated, it accords with the provisions of the Treaty. Now, which agent can determine whether the particular commitment of narcotics was given in Nepal from a Billar", he asked.

International trade meant buying at the cheapest price from anywhere and exporting it. India herself did it like in the case of certain drugs like vitamin B and the baby food items, he claimed. What did it matter to India if a few lakh rupees worth of goods were thus from Nepal, he asked.

On the specific issue of Indo-Nepalese relations of late, Mr Subba said that "they were as good as they were for the last 10 years." "I cannot call them excellent," he said and added, with a sardonic smile, that "some others might say that they (the relations) were as bad as they were all these years."

The minister, who has also been the Vice-Chancellor of the Tribhuvan University, was somewhat philosophical in his attitude towards terrorism which has raised its head in Nepal recently. It was, he said, the modern way of expression of criminal intent or social discontent and it was really not possible to eradicate it. Even in advanced countries with unlimited resources, terrorism could not be prevented, he said. In this modern age of science and technology, the formula for explosive devices were quite well-known and one could buy gelatine or glycerine which went into manufacture of explosives anywhere, the minister said. One had to live with terrorism, Mr Subba said, mentioning in this connection that India, particularly New Delhi, too was in the grip of terrorism.

Referring to Nepal's role in the international field, Mr Subba said that everyone at the United Nations appreciated Nepal's independent stand. She voted on issue on merits alone and was not influenced by India, China, the United States or the Soviet Union.

SRI LANKA

Tamil-Organized Strike 'Virtually Paralyzes' Jaffna
HK250624 Hong Kong AFP in English 0610 GMT 25 Jul 85

[Text] Colombo, July 25 (AFP) — A strike called by militant Tamils to mark the anniversary of the killing of 52 Tamil

detainees virtually paralyzed Sri Lanka's northern provincial capital Jaffna today, sources in the city said. Security sources said that no incidents had been reported but forces in the north were on alert to ward off any attempts to resume violence.

The 52 had been detained or convicted under the provisions of terrorism law and were stabbed or battered to death by fellow prisoners in a Colombo jail in two successive days at the start of anti-Tamil riots in July 1983. The week-long riots, in which nearly 400 people died, had been sparked by the killing of 13 soldiers by militant Tamils.

Jaffna sources said public transport came to a halt today, students boycotted classes, shops closed, and residents stayed indoors to fall in line with an order from the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO). The TELO is one of five major militant groups waging an independence campaign for the country's Tamil-dominated north and east. A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority claim discrimination from the national majority Sinhalese. The president and general secretary of the TELO were among the 52 detainees killed two years ago.

The TELO had called for a two-day anniversary protest, and a Jaffna spokesman for the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil political party, said he expected the protest to continue tomorrow.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the national capital also had been placed on a security alert. Steel-helmeted policemen, some armed with automatic weapons, were guarding entry points and key places in Colombo today. This followed an abortive attempt July 11 to blow up President Junius Jayewardene's office here.

Mr. Athulathmudali confirmed that two deaths occurred in connection with the attempt but admitted they were members of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), members of the main Tamil militant groups. He said that as 1,800-20,000 people in Jaffna also had used the two railways to EROS.

The attempt occurred in the middle of a three-month ceasefire between security forces and the militants that was set off on June 18. The ceasefire followed a Indian-mediated peace talks in Britain between the Colombo government and the main Tamil groups. The talks began this month and were adjourned until August, apparently after having made little headway in settling the decade-old problem.

Strikes Halting Train Crew

HK250818 Hong Kong AFP in English 0750 GMT 25 Jul 85

[Text] Colombo, July 25 (AFP) — An armed gang of more than 15 Tamil militants today halted all train services from the northern provincial capital Jaffna to Colombo and abducted a train driver and guard, railway authorities said.

The incident in the Jaffna region came as a strike called by militant Tamils to mark the anniversary of the killing of 52 Tamil detainees virtually paralyzed Jaffna today, sources there said.

The militants bundled away Tamil driver S. Selvaratnam and Sinhala guard D.F. Ragala at gunpoint in a car, after ordering Mr. Selvaratnam to hand over the keys of the locomotive which he was to have driven to Colombo. The separatists told the driver and guard that train services would resume only Saturday when the strike is due to end.

Reportage, Comments on Hajj Preparations

Khamene'i Briefed on Plans

LD241218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT
6 Jul 85

[Text] On the approach to the convening of the great hajj congress and on the occasion of Hajj Week, Islamic Guidance Minister Mr Khatami, accompanied by Imamo Shamsan, supervisor of the Hajj, Awwal and Welfare Organization, Razi, official in charge of the hajj and pilgrimage affairs, and Khamene'i, official in charge of hajj publicity, met the president (then not specified) and briefed Mr Khamene'i on the executive and publicity programs of the hajj over the past weekend and in preparations being made for the pilgrims. Mr Khamene'i, commending the hajj officials for their efforts, said: We hope that the most exalted God will be satisfied with what has been done already; you should try to do the same in the future as well, for the problems, in comparison with the huge wave of the people's resistance, are insignificant and soluble. The Islamic guidance minister also briefed the president about some of the obstacles introduced by Saudi officials for the Iranian hajj pilgrims. Referring to the new position adopted by the Saudi Arabian Government concerning the 150,000 Iranian pilgrims eager to pay homage to the blessed house of God, the president said: While our people are so eager to pay homage to the twin noble shrines and the government has provided facilities for them to go on this pilgrimage, it is impossible that this pilgrimage fail to take place. I hope that the Saudi Government will not create obstacles for Iranian pilgrims to the blessed house of God. The president, wishing the pilgrims health and success and noting the spiritual and political dimensions of the great hajj congress, advised the pilgrims to lead a simple life and avoid luxuries and extravagance.

Ultimatum Given to Saudi Envoy

LD241659 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
24 Jul 85

[Text] Our country's deputy foreign minister [not further identified] summoned the Saudi charge d'affaires in Tehran this morning and pointed out a few matters regarding problems created by some Saudi officials in connection with the hajj. During the meeting the deputy foreign minister referred to several disruptive acts by some Saudi officials in connection with this year's hajj and said: The Islamic Republic's official position regarding the hajj is that either 150,000 Iranian Muslims will attend the ceremonies or none will attend.

Minister on Saudi Statement

GF250618 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT
25 Jul 85

[Interview with Mohammad Khatami, Iranian minister of Islamic guidance, by unidentified Voice and Vision correspondent — recorded; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khatami] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On the eve of the glorious political and religious

hajj ceremonies, we hope that the great congress will have gathered that the pilgrims will find the best of all Muslims including themselves, the Muslims, together, Iranian and Muslim, inside their own.

Unfortunately, some problems have surfaced in the past few days that show that Saudi Government officials are again creating some problems concerning the pilgrimage by Iranian pilgrims. This is a time when we tried to realize the Islamic attitude concerning or against, mainly through official channels and is able to show our good intentions. We tried to show our respect for the promises made by Saudi officials, including the promise given by the Saudi foreign minister during his recent trip to Iran, and is response to the resistance of the respected officials of the Islamic Republic concerning the need to send some 150,000 [to the pilgrimage] and the need for facilities for them. In response to his promise we tried to show our respect and courtesy. However, it seems that our optimism was not very appropriate. As the noble people of Iran are eager, over 150,000 Iranian pilgrims want to hajj last year. We estimated then that we will send at least the same number this year. If not more. Unfortunately, on the eve of the trip and exactly when they were supposed to grant us flight permissions to start legation transport, they made an excuse that no more than 100,000 can go to hajj. In our opinion this attitude by Saudi Arabia is a clear example of (refusing access) to the inviolable mosque and refusing access to the Ka'bah and the inviolable mosque for Muslims, which is (completely against the teachings) of the Koran.

[Correspondent] Mr Khatami, considering the issues you just outlined, why do you think the Saudi Government creates such obstacles?

[Khatami] We believe that what has arisen is an excuse. However, if the issue is truly that Saudi Arabia is unable to accept this number of Muslims, then it at least shows the inability of the Saudi Government to carry out its responsibilities. The Saudi Government rules in Hejaz, where Mecca and Medina are located, and claims to be managing the holy shrines. In our view, the minimum requirement for managing the holy shrines is to make facilities available to any number of pilgrims who wish to go to the house of the Lord. Currently, there are 1 billion Muslims in the world. Hajj is the duty of all of those who are eligible. It is a great holy gift. Such a thing cannot be closed down due to the lack of facilities by a government. If the Government of Saudi Arabia is truly unable to carry out its duties and cannot supply the facilities for the Muslims of the world, then this should be officially announced so that Muslims can then decide on managing the holy shrines.

On the other hand, if this is an excuse to put pressure on the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran, then unfortunately we have to say that the Saudi Government has not yet understood very well our Islamic revolution, our unyielding leader, and our sacrificing and Muslim revolutionary people. Our people showed that they would never relax when it comes to carrying out their duties. No pressure can stop them from carrying out their holy duties. The Government of Saudi Arabia should realize this that Ka'bah is the center of monotheism. The condition for monotheism is to announce the exclusion of the dualism. This is clearly ordered in the Koran. Iranians and others only carry out their holy duties. No one can stop Muslims from doing this.

We understand the United States, the Soviet regime occupying Palestine, and other various powers are concerned over Muslims attaining higher levels, deciding to struggle against oppression and the rule of foreigners, and announcing the exclusion of the dualism. But one question is why does the Saudi Government announce concern over Muslims shouting against dualism is the center of monotheism, and, as ordered by the Quran, announce the exclusion of the dualists? Does not the glory of Muslims mean the glory of the Islamic Government? If Muslim governments feel close to their nations, then when they see that their nations are honored and determined to be independent they should feel powerful and not weak.

In any case, I believe that it is the ultimate duty of the Saudi Government to prepare all facilities to accept any number of Muslims who may wish to go to hajj. I also believe that it is not in the interest of any government, including Saudi Arabia, to do something that may be interpreted as opposing Muslims and their interests.

We hope that what has occurred is the result of mistakes and misinterpretation of some low-level Saudi Government officials. Thus we hope and expect that higher-ranking Saudi Arabian officials will immediately solve these problems and stop the creation and expansion of any further misunderstanding, in order to remove obstacles from the path of all Muslims, including Iranian pilgrims, that are reflected in the whole world of Islam.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Tehran on Importance of Hajj

GF241039 Tehran Domestic Service in Turkish
1830 GMT 22 Jul 85

[Unattributed commentary: "The Hajj Ceremony and Reaction by International Imperialism"]

[Text] An analysis of the propaganda and reports fabricated by the imperialists during the hajj season will openly reveal the fact that a sense of fear, intimidation, and anxiety lies behind them. That this psychological atmosphere, which has been created by the news agencies, has been observed only during the past few years confirms the fact that the hajj ceremony has been given a new outward appearance — its true phenomenon — as a result of the effort made by the Iranian pilgrims.

Regardless of all the efforts made by international imperialism and certain rulers oppressing the Islamic countries this new identity is not a new movement incorporated into Islam. As pointed out by Imam Khomeini, the hajj policy is not one that we have drawn up. What is practiced now is actually what hajj was in the past. The present question, however, is why are the international imperialists and a number of puppet regimes oppressing Islamic countries afraid of the hajj ceremony and what are the Muslims doing that they wish to obstruct it?

In one of his disclosures, Imam Khomeini replied to this question as follows: We must destroy the idols in the way the Prophet -- may peace and God's blessings be upon him and his kin -- has

destroyed them in Mecca. The governments which are powerful and refuse these things of that kind.

For, it is clearly seen that those who are opposed to the movement of the world Muslims to hajj -- a movement aimed at liberating their nations from the selfish and the polytheistic -- are nothing but representatives of the contemporary trend of polytheism and illiteracy. When hearing the freedom of the hajj ceremony (hajj pilgrims call it "World Muslims unite," "Death to imperialism," "Death to the Communist occupying Jerusalem," and "Muhammad's unity is coming," the Western and Eastern superpowers and aggressive powers have condemned the freedom Muslim unity has taken -- one that will remove the imperialists and the selfish, polytheistic, secular, and selfish regimes, and replace them with the banner of monotheism. Due to this state of affairs we can very easily understand the nature of the continuous efforts made by the imperialists during the hajj ceremony. They are exerting a great effort to prevent the holding of a hajj ceremony that will be similar to the previous hajj congregations. However, it is the unavoidable duty of the world Muslims to act in the same way during the hajj ceremony.

Imam Khomeini said the following on the matter: Hajj is an Islamic policy. As such it must be carried out accordingly -- just as it has been carried out during the past 2 or 3 years. The governments must tolerate this. We cannot avoid a duty assigned to us by Islam.

Montazeri Urges Improving Foreign Ties

GF250629 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT
25 Jul 85

[Excerpts] According to a Central News Unit report, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Velayati, together with under secretaries of his ministry and Iranian ambassadors and charge d'affaires in American and European countries, met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday.

During the meeting, his excellency, referring to the sensitivity of the conditions and the importance of their duties, said: Brothers must not think that they are only representatives abroad for the country. They are also representatives of Islam and the revolution since our revolution is Islamic. Therefore, they should pay complete attention to the importance of this responsibility and grave duties.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri advised Iranian ambassadors and charge d'affaires in American and European countries: Try to contact those forces abroad who for imagined reasons and who are not counterrevolutionary, but for some reason are afraid of returning to their country, and explain to them the conditions in the country. Try to give them as much confidence as possible and advise respective officials or myself of their positions so that we may be able to make arrangements to absorb those who are a beneficial force for the country, have the necessary qualifications, and who love the country and Islam. He added: With patience and forethought we have to properly understand the conditions of the revolution and deal with problems and shortages created for our revolution by the superpowers. We should know that irrespective of all the plots and obstacles of the

enemies of Islam, oppressed nations have realized the dimensions of the Islamic revolution and that in fact our revolution has been exported. Nations are becoming aware.

In conclusion, his excellency said: Brothers should try to clearly outline the positions of the revolution for the nations of the world in order to neutralize the false propaganda of the enemies. For example, the American nation should be made to understand that if our revolutionary nation says "Death to the United States," it does not mean the oppressed American nation, since the majority of the people are also oppressed and subject to a handful of plunderers. Our nation means the U.S. Government, Reagan and the Zionist gang, who with the cooperation of the cartels and trusts, have enslaved the American nation and other nations too.

Foreign Ministry Condemns RSA State of Emergency
LD241114 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry Wednesday condemned the announcement of a state of emergency in South Africa and called for a unified policy by all freedom-seeking nations vis-a-vis the crimes committed by the South African regime and its supporters.

In a statement issued Wednesday morning, the Foreign Ministry stressed that the announcement of a state of emergency was a hasty measure by a decaying regime against the will of an uprising nation. Although the measure was taken to suppress the legitimate cries of the oppressed South African people, it will have the least impact on the determined will of the people who have risen up to become free from tyranny. The statement announced Iran's support for the struggles of the freedom-loving South Africans and called for a unified policy by all freedom-seeking nations and revolutionary people in south of Africa.

Velayati Congratulates New OAU Secretary General
LD250109 Tehran IRNA in English 1118 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA — Iran's foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent Tuesday a congratulatory message to newly elected secretary general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Ide Oumarou. In message, Velayati expressed hope that the OAU would lead a successful struggle against imperialism, Zionism and racism.

Construction Minister Hands Message to Ortega
LD240919 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] Managua, July 24, IRNA — The visiting Iranian minister of construction jihad, Bijan Zanganeh, met and conferred with the Nicaraguan president, Daniel Ortega, Wednesday. During the meeting, Zanganeh presented a message from President Khamene'i to his Nicaraguan counterpart on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of Nicaragua's revolution. In his message, President Khamene'i has stressed that frivolous threats by the international arrogance against the Nicaraguan revolution will not have the least effect on the Nicaraguan people.

Meanwhile, Zanganeh outlined various aggressions of imperialism against the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the Nicaraguan revolution due to the anti-imperialistic character of the two revolutions. He hailed the endeavours of the Nicaraguan people in renovating their country and announced Iran's readiness to fully cooperate with Nicaragua in various fields, mainly in development projects.

Expressing satisfaction over friendly ties between the two countries, President Ortega said that the United States is trying to misrepresent Iran and Nicaragua as terrorist countries. But he noted, both countries have announced to the world that the real terrorist is the U.S. itself.

Referring to the Iraqi-imposed war and the deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq, Ortega announced solidarity with Iran and condemned the deployment of such weapons. He also hoped for a lasting peace for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Pledges Support

LD241418 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Text] The minister of crusade for reconstruction of the Islamic Republic of Iran who was visiting Nicaragua to take part in the anniversary of the victory of the revolution of the Nicaraguan people, in his meeting with the Nicaraguan minister of foreign affairs submitted our foreign minister's message to him on the occasion of the anniversary of the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Nicaraguan Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel D'Escoto, has been on hunger strike for more than 15 days in protest against American state terrorism. The minister of crusade for reconstruction of Iran visited Mr D'Escoto in a church where he has taken sanctuary and told him: The Islamic Republic of Iran supports your revolutionary act which draws the attention of world public opinion to the wrongs inflicted upon the Nicaraguan revolution. In reply the Nicaraguan minister of foreign affairs said: We have tried to reach agreement with America through political means; but America has ambitions and desires which do not belong merely to a mad individual or government, but which demonstrate a satanic system which exists in America and desires to bring us to our knees, so that we might worship it instead of God.

Although Mr D'Escoto is performing his duties merely in the capacity of the minister of foreign affairs of Nicaragua, nevertheless, his position as a revolutionary priest is also of great importance. Some revolutionary movements within the Catholic Church of Latin America, which enjoy great public support, have questioned the long-standing domination of American imperialism in Latin America and have been active against it in different ways. Therefore, Miguel D'Escoto's hunger strike is not only based on these revolutionary movements within Christianity but will also strengthen these movements.

Of course this symbolic act in a Christian church can enjoy full success only if it is supported by the entire Christian world. Therefore, at the beginning of his hunger strike Mr D'Escoto asked Pope John Paul II, the leader of the Catholics of the world, to join this hunger strike and in this way to announce his support for the struggles of the Nicaraguan people. This takes place at a time when Nicaragua has found many friends among the freedom-loving and independence-seeking nations of the world who support the struggles of that country against America. This is why, ever since the beginning of this hunger strike, the Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed its support for him and, as in the past, has condemned American policies towards Nicaragua. Also the remarks of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to Mr D'Escoto are not only the sign of the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the struggles of the Nicaraguan people but they are also the expression of Iranian support for revolutionary Christianity.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Sends Note on Ties

LD242216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] The Sudanese foreign affairs minister has forwarded a note to our country's foreign minister, Mr Velayati. This letter reads in part: I have the pleasure of forwarding this letter to your excellency, and to state our gratitude for the expression of true sentiments for your brothers in Sudan and your pleasure at the new era following the will of our heroic nation in April 1985.

We reciprocally announce our strong desire to clear away any doubts that may have existed regarding relations between the two brother countries, while expressing our gratitude for the above. We desire to eliminate the separation which has come about between us during the rule of the previous regime and wish to be inspired by our true religion that is desirous of holding onto the line of God [a reference to unity among Muslims] and throwing off enmity and discord and bringing about wholesome cooperation among all peoples.

France Interested in Repaying Billion Dollar Loan

LD241702 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — The French Government has expressed interest in resolving a one-billion-dollar financial dispute with the Islamic Republic, in what observers see as an indication of its interest in improving ties with Iran. The intention of the French Government was voiced by its minister of economy and finance, Pierre Berégovoy when he met 'Ali Reza Moyiri, the Iranian charge d'affaires in Paris Tuesday.

The financial dispute started when the French Government refused to repay a one-billion-dollar loan that the French company Eurodif had received from Iran at the time of the ex-shah.

Spokesman for the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Paris said that the French minister told Moyiri that he was interested in finding a solution to the problem as soon as possible and that he would appoint a commission to study the issue. Moyiri had told the minister that the move would be a first step in improving ties, the

spokesman said. The leaders of the Islamic Republic recently said that the repayment of the loan was a precondition for improving relations. Relations between Iran and France have been severely strained because of the French military sales to Iraq and its harbouring of the Iranian terrorist groups in Paris.

Envoy Meets With Nigerian Foreign Affairs Minister

LD250839 Tehran IRNA in English 0753 GMT 25 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — Mutual relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Nigeria were discussed in a meeting between Iranian Ambassador in that country Mohammad Menhaj and the Nigerian foreign minister Ibrahim Gambari, in Lagos Tuesday. They also discussed expansion of political and cultural ties between the two countries.

The Iranian ambassador briefed the stands of the Islamic Republic in the light of neither East nor West policy as well as the strengthening of relations with the Third World countries specially Africa. Menhaj added that with the establishment of more than ten embassies in the African Continent, Iran's relations and political, economic and cultural cooperation with African countries have considerably increased and has brought about fruitful results for each side.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Jerusalem IV Operations

GF241432 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] The victorious monotheistic forces, on the occasion of the anniversary of the pride-inspiring Val-Fajr II operations and the series of Jerusalem operations, commenced the Jerusalem IV operations last night under the codename of "Ya Mohammad Rasul Allah" with an onslaught against the heart of the enemy positions. With the unsurpassed cooperation of the popular Iraqi forces comprised of the Iraqi mujahidin's Badr Brigade, they were successful in dealing heavy blows to the misguided unsuccessful forces of Iraq.

According to correspondents of the Central News Unit from the operational area, at about 2400 last night [2030 GMT on 23 July] the Iraqi people's mojahedin were successful, with boundless divine succor, in crossing two axes to the north of Hawr al-Hawizah along an area 18 km long and over numerous minefields and barbed wire which had been set up in a complicated manner by catching the enemy forces by surprise. They liberated 100 sq km of Iraqi territory.

According to the same report, in these operations the Iraqi mojahedin combatants inflicted heavy losses in life and equipment on the 2d and 5th Battalions of the Iraqi 117th Brigade from the Iraqi 29th Division. Hundreds of the hirelings of the Iraqi Ba'thist forces were killed or wounded and 21 captured, including officers and NCO's. In these operations, Umm al-Na'aj Lake and the Al-Tub Dam 30-km deep in Iraqi territory, which are of immense military and economic importance, were liberated.

In addition to seizing 5 motor launches and a vast quantity of light and medium weapons from the Iraqi force, 13 outposts and (?river posts); Al-Huruj village; the Shatt al-Dawb waterway; and Umm al-Tawah, Bab al-Hava, Sudah, Abu Shush, and Sisun; and the area between the Um al-Na'aj Lake and the Shatt al-Dawb were purged of the enemy's filthy presence by the Islamic combatants.

One of our correspondents, who witnessed the victorious operational forces in the Jerusalem IV area described morale as excellent. He quoted one of the Iraqi people's combatants who had participated in these infiltrating operations as saying: The Iraqi people's forces who want to topple the Ba'thist non-Muslim regime of Iraq are taking part on the fronts and are determined not to falter in their resolve. They consider themselves obliged to avenge the needless shedding of the Iraqi Muslim people's blood at the hands of the tyrannical rulers of Iraq with all their might as an Islamic and canonical duty. This Islamic combatant appealed to all the Muslims within and outside of Iraq to join the Islamic forces by active presence on the fronts in this divine mission.

Iraqi Troops Retreat

LD241629 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] Ahvaz, July 24, IRNA — An Iraqi counterattack to recapture lost positions in the southern front was defeated Wednesday morning and shattered units of the Iraqi 29th Division are retreating with their dead and wounded.

Reports reaching here said that the Iraqi Fourth Army launched the aborted counter-assault after losing 150 sq kms to Iran's Muslim combatants in their Jerusalem IV offensive. The routed Iraqis met with Iranian fire when the Iranian forces launched a counter-attack supported by helicopter gunships. The liberated areas were reported to be north of the Hawr al-Hawizah marshlands and south of the city of Al-'Amarah.

Strategic Roads Under Fire

LD241701 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] Ahvaz, July 24, IRNA — Wednesday's Iranian offensive in the southern Iraqi marshlands has put two strategic roads used by Iraq's 29th and 30th Divisions under the direct fire of Muslim combatants, reported IRNA correspondents from the front lines. The correspondents also said that the headquarters of the Iraqi 117th Infantry Brigade was destroyed by Iran's long range artillery during the offensive.

The offensive started in the early hours of Wednesday in the north of the Hawr al-Hawizah marshlands west of Iran's Khuzestan Province where the temperature have reached 45 degrees centigrade (113 F) in the past 24 hours.

The correspondents said that parts of the Iraqi Fourth Army known as the "Farsan al-Hur" has lost discipline because of the attack. The offensive have been code-named as Quds-Four.

Jerusalem IV Headquarters Communique

LD241727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] Communique No 2 of Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters concerning operation Jerusalem IV, was issued this evening, as follows: In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful. Continuing the victorious Jerusalem IV operation, which commenced last night, in Hwar al-Hawizah, the combatants of Islam, accompanied by Badr Brigade personnel comprising Muslim Iraqi mujahidin, captured 13 Iraqi garrisons in the region, including Sisun, Al-Tirah, Sudah and Umm al-Tawah. Also during the operation, the Umm al-Tushah, Umm al-Izral and Umm al-Baqaliyah ponds were captured by the forces of Islam.

During operation Jerusalem IV, which started 24 km inside Iraq, the forces of Islam advanced 8 more km along 18 km. They brought the paved Al-Kahla-Abu Khassas road and Abu Khassas-Qal'a Salah road under heavy fire.

Continuing the Jerusalem IV operation 50 km more of Umm al-Na'aj Lake and Umm al-Tushah pond were liberated by the combatants of Islam. Thus a total of 150 sq km were captured by the forces of Islam in operation Jerusalem IV.

During the operation the 2d Battalion of 117th Brigade of the enemy was destroyed. Its personnel were killed, wounded or captured. Also considerable quantities of light and semi-heavy weapons and assorted communication equipment and five motor boats were captured intact by the forces of Islam.

[Signed] Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, the center for the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Abadan, Khorramshahr Shelled

GF241508 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] The hirelings of the Ba'thist-Zionist forces ruling Iraq shelled the resistant cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan with their heavy long-range artillery in the past 24 hours. A report by the Central News Unit states that as a result of this heinous act, 11 residential buildings were damaged in Abadan. Khorramshahr sustained losses as well.

According to this report, Iraqi aggressor planes attempted to intrude into Abadan's air space at 0830 yesterday morning [0500 GMT on 23 July] but were forced to retreat before carrying out their mission due to the intensive anti-aircraft fire in the area.

Communique No 2,175

LD241829 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — Fifty eight Iraqi soldiers were killed and many wounded as sporadic artillery fire was traded between Iran's Muslim combatants and the Iraqi troops in the central battlefronts on Tuesday, said a military communique here Wednesday.

The communique number 2175 released by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran said in battles between the Iranian forces and the Iraqi troops in other battlefronts Iraqi forces had suffered substantial human losses and material damages.

The Iraqi troops launched out four attacks against the Iranian positions in Sumar on Tuesday but were pushed back incurring heavy losses.

In the central fronts on Tuesday 13 larger bunkers and observation posts of the enemy troops, two vehicles, one ammunitions depot, one Army tank and one mortar launcher of the Iraqi troops were destroyed and five of their vehicles were damaged.

In the northern fronts Iran's Muslim troops maintained their full control over their positions while watching the movements of the enemy forces. One enemy tank, one ammunitions depot, one 130-mm howitzer and four vehicles were destroyed and also one helicopter was downed.

Artillery fire was traded between Iran's Muslim combatants and the Iraqi troops in the western fronts throughout Tuesday raging a little heavier in Shahrani, Hoseyniyeh al-Zeyd.

At 23.00 hours GMT on Monday one enemy patrol group tried to infiltrate the Islamic defenders' positions near Nahr-Anbar west of the Iran-Iraq border but were immediately repulsed.

On Tuesday gendarmerie fighters destroyed six enemy bunkers killing and wounding five enemy soldiers in the southern fronts.

Meanwhile 11 houses were partly damaged in the city of Abadan as the city was shelled by the Iraqi long-range artillery from across the border on Tuesday.

Heavy Iraqi Casualties in Sumar

LD250811 Tehran IRNA in English 0759 GMT 25 Jul 85

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — The Islamic combatants of Iran killed or wounded 250 Iraqi soldiers during five counter-offensives of the enemy in Sumar region, in Bakhtaran [spelling as received] Province, during the past 24 Hours. So far, bodies of 20 Iraqis have been buried in the operational scene by the Islamic combatants.

Battle continued in this front during the said period by using various heavy arms including artillery, mortar, katyusha and

infantry troops. The Islamic combatants demolished several Iraqi positions and set ablaze a big munitions depot. The smoke and the sound of consecutive explosions could be seen and heard for several hours.

Iraq Shells Khorramshahr, Abadan

LD250927 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 25 Jul 85

[Text] Ahvaz, July 25 IRNA — One civilian was martyred and three others were wounded as Iraqi forces barraged Khorramshahr Thursday morning in retaliation for their continuous defeats in the battlefronts. Parts of the city were also damaged.

Meanwhile, Iraqi forces shelled Abadan during the preceding 24 hours by their long-range heavy artillery as a result of which two houses were damaged.

Units Depart for War Fronts

LD250901 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Jul 85

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, yesterday a number of Basij brothers from Khansar, Shahanshah, Falavarjan, Golpayegan, Esfahan, Daran, Ardestan, Najafabad, Khomeynishahr and Qomcheh left for the battlefronts of the war between truth and falsehood.

Also, yesterday a large number of the members of the Basij units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from Bojnurd, Neyshapur, Borujen, Rudbar, Estahban and Sarayan left for the war zones amidst a warm sendoff by the people of their towns.

IRNA Reports DRA Mujahidin Operations

LD241855 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 24 Jul 85

[Text] Islamabad, July 24, IRNA — Two helicopters belonging to the Soviet-Afghan forces were set ablaze by Afghan Muslim Revolutionaries (mujahidin) who attacked a military airport located in Khowst Governorate in Paktia Province five days ago, informed sources close to mujahidin said here Wednesday.

They added that another helicopter of the Soviet-Karmal forces was downed by the anti aircraft fire of mujahidin in Zadran in Paktia Province. The pilot of the downed copter was killed, the sources said.